

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 31, 2008, claims 1-4 and 10-19 have been cancelled, and the specification has been amended. Claims 5-9 and 20-23 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that it appears that a wrong box was checked in the form PTOL-326. Specifically, Applicants believe that box 5 should have been checked, indicating that claims 5-9 and 20-23 are allowed, as implied the checking of box 3 which indicates that this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters (Quayle Office Action).

Non-elected claims 1-4 and 10-19 have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications in the future to pursue the subject matter of those claims.

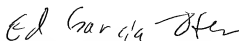
The Specification was objected to regarding the claim of priority. Applicants submit that this objection has been overcome by the foregoing amendments, wherein priority is claimed as a continuation in part of prior filed U.S. Application No. 09/693,713 filed on October 19, 2000, now U.S. 7,305,558 (and was pending at the time that this present application was filed), which claims foreign application priority to JP 11-301216 filed October 22, 1999 and to JP 2000-081712 filed March 17, 2000.

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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